

State, and was elected to seven terms in the Senate. Incredibly, FRITZ HOLLINGS was in public service since 1948 and somehow managed to be his State's junior Senator until 2 years ago. It must be something in the water in South Carolina.

During his career, Senator HOLLINGS has had an impact on a wide range of legislation, including measures to protect the environment, balance the budget, and update telecommunications law.

I am very appreciative of his initiation of a nationwide effort to combat breast and cervical cancer by utilizing his seat on the Appropriations Committee to secure funding for a pilot screening program. This will be one of the many lasting legacies of FRITZ HOLLINGS.

BOB GRAHAM

Senator BOB GRAHAM, a former two-term Governor of the sunshine State, has compiled a record of achievement in the Senate which included portions of the PATRIOT Act. When it comes to environmental, tax, energy, and education issues, he has been a strong voice in Congress.

One of the greatest legacies of Senator GRAHAM is the Florida Everglades. The rich flora and fauna of the Everglades were threatened by development, but then-Governor GRAHAM pushed through legislation to protect it. Future generations of Americans who visit the Everglades should remember his contribution to saving this national heritage.

JOHN BREAU

Madam President, Senator JOHN BREAU is a voice of moderation and bipartisanship. He helped pass landmark welfare reform under a previous administration, and has consistently been able to work with Members of the other side of the aisle whether his party has been in the majority or minority.

His commonsense approach to energy legislation and many other issues will certainly be missed. He helped defeat the Btu tax which was so injurious to the energy industry in both my State of Texas and his State of Louisiana.

Senator BREAU was the youngest Member of the House of Representatives when he was elected, at age 28, in 1972. He served in the House for 14 years before being elected to fill the legendary Senator Russell Long seat in 1986. You would think Washington would change someone after all that time, but John is still a Cajun through and through and sees the world with a sense of humor that keeps everything in perspective.

I will miss JOHN BREAU. He was often an ally on transportation, energy, and telecommunications issues. Even when we were on opposite sides in a debate, he brought wisdom, experience, and a willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion to the Senate.

And no, JOHN, Louisiana cannot annex Texas.

JOHN EDWARDS

Madam President, we must also say farewell to a freshman Senator who is now a household name in the United States. No one who has met JOHN EDWARDS can fail to like him and respect him.

Senator EDWARDS rose from humble beginnings to come close to being elected Vice President of the United States. The first member of his family to gain a college education, he went on to earn a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He built a hugely successful law practice before he entered public service.

Senator EDWARDS was a chief sponsor of the bipartisan Patient Protection Act, strong and far-reaching patient protection legislation that passed the Senate in 2001. He has a long career ahead of him and will do well on whatever path he takes.

Finally, I want to let Senator EDWARDS know that he and his wife Elizabeth are in my prayers every day.

ZELL MILLER

Madam President, it is hard to say how much I appreciate ZELL MILLER, a proud Democrat and a great American. Senator MILLER's early life was not easy. He grew up in the hills of Georgia where people may not have had much but they worked hard and had strong families and solid values. He pulled a stint in the U.S. Marines, which he said put him on the right path in life. His colorful career in Georgia politics included two terms as Governor. When U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell, my great friend, died unexpectedly, ZELL MILLER was appointed until a special election could be held, which he won handily.

After he arrived in Washington, Senator MILLER was one of the few who not only talked the talk of bipartisanship but walked the walk. During the war on terror, he advised bipartisan action on the Homeland Security bill. He called for bipartisan support for traditional American values, a lower tax burden, and a strong American defense.

I think the verdict on Senator MILLER's stand for old-time Democratic values has been vindicated, first in the 2002 elections and lastly in the 2004 elections. Someone who is being friendly tells you things you want to hear, but a true friend is one who tells you things he thinks you should hear. ZELL MILLER is that kind of friend to both Democrats and Republicans. He will be missed in this August body, as one of those who told it like it is, straight from the heart.

Madam President, I will miss all of my colleagues. As we take the opportunity to go forward in a new Congress, we will make new friends, but we will never forget the old ones.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I begin today on a happy note to say, after a

lot of hard work in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, we have brought forth an excellent product. Thanks to the leadership of Senator GREGG and Senator KENNEDY, we have produced a solid, bipartisan conference report which protects the educational rights of children with special needs while at the same time making the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act more workable for parents, teachers, school administrators, and school districts.

While IDEA, as the bill is known, has helped to open the doors to many children with special needs since it was enacted in 1975, there is no question about problems existing.

Over the last half dozen years, I have traveled around the State of Missouri and met, in over 50 different communities, with teachers, school principals, school board members, and parents to find out what the challenges are in education. No surprise that you would come to hear that it is not just that they want more Federal money, they want sense in the Federal regulations. They told me horror stories about the regulatory hurdles they had to overcome to administer some of the Federal programs, especially IDEA. The IDEA was more focused on complex rules than on producing the results that children with disabilities and their families deserve.

I have heard story after story about frustrated special education teachers just throwing up their hands and saying: I can't take it anymore. I came to serve special needs children, not a bureaucracy, and not to be involved in litigation all the time. I have heard about crushing paperwork burdens, children misidentified for special education, that the Federal Government is not paying its fair share of the cost.

The conference report we adopted yesterday is a very important step to address these concerns, to strengthen and improve IDEA for both children and the educational system. We believe it will strengthen the accountability and results for children with disabilities, reduce IDEA paperwork burdens, provide greater flexibility for school districts, reduce the number of children wrongly placed in special education classes, reduce litigation, and restore trust between parents and school districts.

I am particularly pleased to tell you that many of the ideas contained in this legislation were developed in Missouri. When I heard the complaints of Missouri educators, I met and talked with the Missouri School Board Association, which put together a multimonth planning conference with representatives of the teachers, of the special needs community, and others to come up with specific ideas and reforms. The Missouri School Board Association's Special Education Advocacy Council and the Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education came forward with proposals that I took to the committee, and the committee was able to include most, if not

all, of those in the final legislation. So once again, the best ideas we get here come from home. I thank all of the committed education professionals and friends of special education who worked on it.

I am particularly pleased with the significant reforms which will focus special education on educating children with special needs, not simply complying with a system composed of intricate and complex regulatory and mountainous paperwork burdens.

Special education teachers, as I indicated, are leaving the profession out of frustration because of the unnecessary burden, and that is causing a chronic shortage. More time on paperwork means less time spent with students or preparing lessons for students. It is as simple as that. The numerous reforms in the bill will go a long way to free our time of special educators.

Again, my thanks to Senator GREGG and Senator KENNEDY, and on my on staff, Kara Vlasaty and Julie Jolly for helping us come up with an excellent product.

TRIBUTE TO KOMNINOS "GUS" KARELLAS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, the other matter I need to speak to today is a very sad note. There is a funeral going on in my hometown of Mexico, MO, today, as we speak, for a very good friend of mine, Komninos "Gus" Karellas. There is a celebration of his life in a community which has mourned him in the last several days.

You heard on the floor from my colleague, Senator TALENT, words about Gus, a tremendous American success story. He was an immigrant from Greece. He came here with nothing 40 years ago. He started out working for others. He started out in California, came to Iowa, then Columbia, MO, and then moved with his wife to Mexico, MO, in 1970, to work in a steakhouse. A year later, they bought that steakhouse.

For the last 33 years, Gus Karellas's G&D Steakhouse has been the place to go for good steaks. I know it because I have been one of the frequent visitors there.

I came to know Gus as the community of Mexico, MO, came to know Gus. What a warm, genuine human being Gus Karellas was. He was a leader in his community. He helped charities like Boys Town. But he also did a wonderful thing in the community because he reached out to young people with difficulties, gave them opportunities as busboys and other jobs in his restaurant.

Unfortunately, the allegation in the police report was that it was one of those, or maybe several of those, who murdered him several nights ago to take the receipts from his business. We do not know what was in their troubled minds, but I can tell you that the community has lost a man of great dedication, great service.

Gus was a wonderful father. One of his sons, Nick Karellas, serves as a legislative assistant in my office. Another son, Andy, serves as a legislative assistant to Senator TALENT. JIM TALENT and I see every day the work ethic, the commitment, the dedication that Gus instilled in his children. He is a man who has left a very large mark on his community, and he has left a legacy that all of us can admire and recognize.

In the Omnibus appropriations bill that we will be passing today, there is a grant for a trail at Lakeview Park in Missouri. I suggest that the city fathers of my hometown consider naming that in honor of Gus Karellas to recognize not only his accomplishments but his contributions to the community and to his family.

I can only say that our thoughts and prayers are with the Karellas family. We join with the community in saluting his life, the great role model he was, the good he did for the community, and we will miss him sorely. They will also be in our thoughts and prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for as much time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I want to share my views, as did Senator HUTCHISON and others, about our colleagues who are leaving for new adventures in life.

I wish all the best to Senator HOLINGS. We will miss his booming voice. We will miss Senator EDWARDS, Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and Senator DASCHLE. We will also miss JOHN BREAU, a man we know will enjoy life with his good common sense and sense of humor. He is a good friend.

I want to speak about four others, though, including PETER FITZGERALD, whom I will miss. He will always be known for two ideas and principles of life—honesty and integrity. He has certainly fought hard for what he believed was right, and you can always trust his word.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is a unique, proud leader of heritage. He is a man of principle. I look at BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL as one who runs on his own gear ratio. He is a character with character, whom I will certainly miss.

DON NICKLES—gosh, what a smart, principled leader. He will be missed. He is a taxpayer's hero. Last night, my wife and I enjoyed the Allen Jackson concert in DC. And that makes me think of country music. DON NICKLES is one of the reasons God made Oklahoma. We will miss DON NICKLES.

ZELL MILLER is probably the colleague that I have known the longest. He and I served at the same time as Governors of our respective States. He was always one of my role models. We got to know each other very well in the Southern Governors Association. Before I came to the Senate, one of the people who motivated me to go to the Senate was Paul Coverdell. ZELL took his seat and his office. When I came in, ZELL gave up that office, and now I am in ZELL MILLER's and Paul Coverdell's former office. I will think of ZELL a lot in the future. Two years ago, when ZELL announced his retirement, or that he was not going to run again, some were saying ZELL MILLER is a lame duck. Well, on this floor, at our convention in New York City, and throughout this fall, ZELL MILLER was anything but a lame duck. ZELL MILLER leaves office as a "mighty duck." We are going to certainly miss ZELL. We know he will stay active.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I want to discuss two important ideas and issues that are essential, I think, for America's future and our opportunities. First, I thank my colleagues in the House and the Senate for support of S. 150, the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act.

Second, I want to discuss the significant advances in broadband Internet technologies over the past 8 years, particularly since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

I thank the chairman of the Commerce Committee, Senator MCCAIN, and the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, for their continued leadership on the Internet tax moratorium. I have enjoyed working both with Chairman MCCAIN and Senator WYDEN over the years on numerous technology-related projects, such as nanotechnology, WiFi, unsolicited commercial e-mail, or SPAM and SPYWARE. They are great teammates on these telecommunications and technology issues, and I thank them.

Yesterday afternoon, the House of Representatives passed S. 150, the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act, which cleared this important legislation for the President's signature later this year. As colleagues have heard me say on many occasions, the moratorium on Internet taxation has been one of my top legislative priorities since coming to the Senate. I have held this position since 1997, in my days as Governor of Virginia, when I was one of only four Governors to share the view in support of the visionary leadership of Congressman CHRIS COX and Senator WYDEN on this issue of Internet taxation.

I have consistently advocated policies and ideas that promote freedom and opportunity for all Americans. This legislation, S. 150, authored with Senator WYDEN, protects every American from harmful, regressive taxes on